

# June Programs

## Edible and Medicinal Plants of the Ponderosa Forest



Saturday, June 17, 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

On this walk we will explore early-season plants in the ponderosa pine ecozone. We will discuss identification, harvesting, preparation, and therapeutic uses. Be prepared for a 1.5 mile roundtrip walk on narrow woodlands trails. We will meet at Gate #3 off of Fremont Court.

**Directions:** Take Highway 160 to North Pagosa Blvd, traveling about 5 miles up North Pagosa Blvd. The road will divide, then both lanes will rejoin. At that point, make a sharp left turn, doubling back for 10 yards onto the southbound section of the road. Take the immediate next right, onto Coronado Circle. From there, take the first right to Fremont Court.

## Fissuring Out the Past – Ice Cave Ridge

Wednesday, June 21, 9:00 -11:00 a.m.

Have you ever wondered what those strange cracks were on Ice Cave Ridge? Take a pleasant walk and join Rick & Lynne Stinchfield to learn about the geology of Ice Cave Ridge and the Pagosa area. Wear walking shoes/boots, dress appropriately for the weather, and bring drinking water. Please leave your 4-legged friends at home. This is a free program. No need to register, just show up!

**Directions:** Meet at the Piedra River Trailhead northwest of Pagosa Springs. From Highway 160, go north on Piedra Road (CR 600) for approximately 16 miles. The trailhead is on the left a few hundred yards beyond the crossing of the Piedra River.



# July Programs

## Take a Walk Back in Time

Saturday, July 8, 9:30 -11:30 a.m.

Join Rick & Lynne Stinchfield on a moderate 3.5 mile walk to learn about the roles the railroad and Civilian Conservation Corps played in the settling of the area. The walk includes a visit to the homestead era Provancher Ranch (Murray), now the home of a *Myotis* bat community.

**Directions:** Meet at the entrance to the Blanco River Picnic Area. Travel south from Pagosa approx. 11 miles on Highway 84 to Blanco River Road (#656), turn east and follow the gravel road about 2.5 miles to its end.

## Wild About Wildflowers

Thursday, July 13, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Take a slow-paced wildflower identification hike with Susan and Dean Dussell on the Continental Divide Trail from the top of Wolf Creek Pass to the Rock Garden and beyond. Elevation gain to the Rock Garden is 700 feet. As many as 80 different wild flowers may be found. This is a moderate hike with some elevation gain.

**Directions:** Meet Susan and Dean at the interpretive sign at Wolf Creek Pass. Wear hiking shoes/boots. Bring raingear and a bag lunch. If you have a 2 way radio, please bring it. **Hike is limited to 15. Contact the Pagosa Ranger District at 264-2268 to sign up.**

## Native Medicinal Plants of the Piedra River Trail

Tuesday, July 18, 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.



A great diversity of medicinal and edible plants grow right alongside one of our area's most popular hiking trails. Come learn about them! This walk is an exciting introduction to the region's botany, for visitors and residents alike. Be prepared for a 2 mile roundtrip walk on a rocky trail with some elevation gain.

**Directions:** Meet at the Piedra River Trailhead. From Highway 160, go north on Piedra Road (CR 600) for a little over 15 miles. The trailhead is on the left a few hundred yards beyond the crossing of the Piedra River.



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Designed by Brandon Caley, USFS



U.S. Forest Service  
San Juan National Forest  
Pagosa Ranger District

# 2017 Summer Programs



# August Programs

## Subalpine Medicinal Herbs and Edible Plants

Tuesday, August 1, 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

New Program!

Join us for a leisurely walk on Wolf Creek Pass, exploring an abundance of medicinal and edible plants and wildflowers. We will see a large variety of plants, including several rare species, and discuss medicinal uses, harvesting, and preparation. An easy 1 mile roundtrip on Wolf Creek Forest Service Road.

**Directions:** Meet at FS Road 725 (Wolf Creek Road). FS Road 725 is about 22 miles east of town on Highway 160, on Wolf Creek Pass. Go ¾ mile past mile marker 164, on the right-hand side of the highway. It is the first right after Falls Creek Road (FS Rd. 39), and it marked with a small brown Forest Service sign reading “Junction Rd. 725.” The road slopes sharply down to the right, after the turnoff. We will meet at the pull-out at the base of the road, and walk from there.

## Arborglyphs of the Past, Present, and Future

Saturday, August 12, 9:00-11:30 a.m.

Join local researcher Peggy Bergon on this three mile hike from the Buckles Lake Trailhead as she shares with you examples of the “tree talk” the shepherders left while weaving in the story of the early sheep industry in Archuleta County.

**Directions:** Drive south on US route 84 for about 19 miles, turn left on the Buckles Lake Road (Forest Service Road 663) and follow it to the end, about 7 miles. Due to the nature of the walk, **it is limited to 12 participants;** to reserve a spot, call the Pagosa Ranger District at 264-2268.

## For the Love of Mushrooms

Tuesday, August 29, 9:00 -11:30 a.m.

One of the many benefits of summer rains in Pagosa country is the emergence of a wide variety of mushrooms in the evergreen forest. Gretchen will lead a walk to identify mushroom species. Meeting location will be at the Fourmile trailhead. Trailhead elevation is 9,200 feet. This is a moderate walk with some elevation gain.

# Birding with Ben or Ranger Brandon

## West Fork

Tuesday, June 20

7:30 - 10:30 a.m.

15 miles northeast on Hwy 160 to West Fork Rd. (#648) on left just before Treasure Falls turnout.

## Spiler Canyon

Tuesday, July 18

7:30 - 10:30 a.m.

Meet at the Spiller Canyon turn out, 12 miles south of Hwy 160, on Hwy 84 (turnout on the left).

## Blanco River

Tuesday, August 15

7:30 - 10:30 a.m.

Travel south from Pagosa approx. 11 miles on Highway 84 to Blanco River Road (#656), turn east and follow the gravel road about 2.5 miles to its end.

## Echo Canyon Reservoir

Tuesday, September 19

7:30 - 10:30 a.m.

Hwy 84 South 6 miles, turn right.



# Just for Kids Forest Explorers

Tuesdays & Thursdays

June 29, July 25, & August 31

10:00 – 10:45 a.m.

New Program!

Come take advantage of this free opportunity to explore nature with Ranger Brandon. This program is for children (5-8 years old) and their parents/caregivers. Meet at the Coyote Hill trailhead and dress for the weather.

# Read with a Ranger

Wednesdays

June 14, July 12, & August 9

1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Join Ranger Brandon from the U.S. Forest Service as he reads nature-themed stories and provides activities based on the books. These free programs take place at the Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library meeting room. Typically children 6 to 10 years old attend, but open to all ages. No parents/caregivers required at this age.



Walks and Talks take place in and around the San Juan National Forest unless otherwise noted in the program description. Programs may be cancelled due to inclement weather or other unforeseen circumstances. Sturdy footwear is recommended for those attending walks.

Additional programs will be advertised through the newspaper or on the radio.



I want to thank all the wonderful volunteers that put their time, energy, and continue to support of our conservation education and interpretation efforts on the San Juan National Forest in the Pagosa Ranger District!

